

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 1. (Currently amended) A computer-implemented method for deciding
2 whether to make an item in-house or to buy the item from outside suppliers, the method
3 comprising:
4 launching a workflow ~~from a first interface associated with a computer to enforce~~
5 ~~a series of steps~~ for arriving at the make or buy decision; and
6 displaying information on a second interface associated with a computer, the
7 information indicative of the make or buy decision;[[.]]
8 wherein the workflow series of steps includes[[ing]]:
9 forwarding, using at least one computer in a set of one or more computers,
10 information that enables one or more workflow participants in a marketing department of an
11 enterprise to generate[[ing]] a market specification describing the item to be made in-house or
12 purchased from outside suppliers;
13 receiving, at at least one computer in the set of one or more computers, the
14 market specification from the one or more workflow participants in the marketing department;
15 receiving, at at least one computer in the set of one or more computers,
16 information estimating a market volume for the item described in the market specification from
17 the one or more workflow participants in the marketing department;
18 forwarding, using at least one computer in the set of one or more
19 computers, information that enables one or more workflow participants in a planning department
20 of the enterprise to derive[[ing]] a materials requirement plan from the generated market
21 specification and the estimated market volume;
22 receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, the material
23 equipment plan from the one or more workflow participants in the planning department;

24 forwarding, using at least one computer in the set of one or more
25 computers, information that enables one or more workflow participants in an engineering
26 department of the enterprise to develop[[ing]] an engineering specification defining the item
27 from the generated market specification;
28 receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, the engineering
29 specification from the one or more workflow participants in the engineering department;
30 receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, information
31 establishing a purchase price to buy the item from one or more workflow participants in a
32 purchasing department of the enterprise;
33 receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, information
34 estimating a unit cost for producing the item in-house from one or more workflow participants in
35 a costing department of the enterprise; and
36 forwarding, using at least one computer in the set of computers,
37 information that enables the one or more workflow participants in the costing department to
38 determining[[ing]] a unit opportunity cost from the established purchase price to buy the item and
39 the estimated in-house unit cost;
40 forwarding, using at least one computer in the set of computers,
41 information that enables the one or more workflow participants in the costing department to
42 extend[[ing]] the unit opportunity cost by the quantity of the item specified in the material
43 requirement plan to determine a gross opportunity cost;
44 receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, information
45 estimating a cost of acquiring a production capacity to produce the item in-house from the one or
46 more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise;[[.]] and
47 receiving, at at least one computer in the set of computers, information
48 determining to make the item in-house from the one or more workflow participants in a costing
49 department of the enterprise if a net present value of the gross opportunity cost is more than the
50 estimate cost of acquiring the production capacity, otherwise receiving, at the at least one
51 computer in the set of computers, information determining to buy the item from at least one of
52 the outside suppliers.

2. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, the materials requirement plan from the one or more workflow participants in the planning department includes receiving a bill of materials detailing components and sub-components needed to build the item, current inventory of the components and sub-components and an amount of the components and sub-components that must be purchased, phased over time.

3. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, the engineering specification from the one or more workflow participants in the engineering department includes receiving a technical description of the item and of any tooling, plant layout and materials needed to produce the item.

4. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, the information establishing a purchase price to buy the item from one or more workflow participants in the purchasing department ~~step~~ includes at least one ~~step~~ of:
receiving information indicating determining whether an item matching or substantially matching requirements defined in the engineering specification is available from the outside suppliers; and
receiving information placing the item defined in the engineering specification up for bid by the ~~external~~ outside suppliers.

5. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein the workflow further includes~~[[ing]]~~ ~~a step of carrying out receiving, at at least one computer in the set of one or more computers, information indicative of a financial justification calculation, the financial justification calculation being a difference between the net present value of the gross opportunity costs and the estimated cost of acquiring the production capacity to produce the item in-house.~~

6. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein based on a determination when it is determined to make the item in-house, the workflow further including carrying out a step of receiving at at least one computer in the set of one or more computers, information scoring the gross opportunity cost according to how aligned making the item in-house is with non-financial criteria.

7. (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 1, wherein ~~the step of receiving, at the~~ at least one computer in the set of computers, information estimating the unit cost for producing the item in-house includes receiving at least one of a cost of a plant and equipment needed to manufacture the item, a factory layout cost, and a building cost.

8. (Original) The computer-implemented method of claim 6, wherein the non-financial criteria include process technology advantage, tooling technology advantage, volume and intellectual property protection.

9. (Currently amended) A machine-readable storage medium having data stored thereon representing sequences of instructions ~~which, when executed executable~~ by a computer~~[[,]] causes the computer to carry out a method~~ for deciding whether to make an item in-house or to buy the item from outside suppliers, the machine-readable storage medium comprising by carrying out steps of:
instructions for launching a workflow to enforce a series of steps for arriving at the make or buy decision; and
instructions for generating information indicative of the make or buy decision;[[,]]
wherein the workflow series of steps includes[[ing]]:
instructions for forwarding information that enables one or more workflow participants in a marketing department of an enterprise to generate[[ing]] a market specification describing the item to be made in-house or purchased from outside suppliers;

instructions for receiving the market specification from the one or more workflow participants in the marketing department;

instructions for receiving information estimating a market volume for the item described in the market specification from the one or more workflow participants in the marketing department;

instructions for forwarding information that enables one or more workflow participants in a planning department of the enterprise to derive[[ing]] a materials requirement plan from the generated market specification and the estimated market volume;

instructions for receiving the material equipment plan from the one or more workflow participants in the planning department;

instructions for forwarding information that enables one or more workflow participants in an engineering department of the enterprise to develop[[ing]] an engineering specification defining the item from the generated market specification;

instructions for receiving the engineering specification from the one or more workflow participants in the engineering department;

instructions for receiving information establishing a purchase price to buy the item from one or more workflow participants in a purchasing department of the enterprise;

instructions for receiving information estimating a unit cost for producing the item in-house from one or more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise; and

instructions for forwarding information that enables the one or more workflow participants in the costing department to determine[[ing]] a unit opportunity cost from the established purchase price to buy the item and the estimated in-house unit cost;

instructions for forwarding information that enables the one or more workflow participants in the costing department to extend[[ing]] the unit opportunity cost by the quantity of the item specified in the material requirement plan to determine a gross opportunity cost;

instructions for receiving information estimating a cost of acquiring a production capacity to produce the item in-house from the one or more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise;[[,]] and

instructions for receiving information determining to make the item in-house from the one or more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise if a net present value of the gross opportunity cost is more than the estimate cost of acquiring the production capacity, otherwise receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, information determining to buy the item from at least one of the outside suppliers.

10. (Currently amended) A computer system for making a decision whether to make an item in-house or to buy the item from outside suppliers, comprising:

a processor;
at least one data storage device coupled to the processor;
a plurality of processes spawned by said at least one processor, the processes including processing logic for:
launching a workflow ~~to enforce a series of steps~~ for arriving at the make or buy decision; and

generating information indicative of the make or buy decision;[[,]]
wherein the workflow series of steps includes[[ing]]:
forwarding information that enables one or more workflow participants in a marketing department of an enterprise to generate[[ing]] a market specification describing the item to be made in-house or purchased from outside suppliers;

receiving the market specification from the one or more workflow participants in the marketing department;
receiving information estimating a market volume for the item described in the market specification from the one or more workflow participants in the marketing department;

19 forwarding information that enables one or more workflow participants in
20 a planning department of the enterprise to derive[[ing]] a materials requirement plan from the
21 generated market specification and the estimated market volume;
22 receiving the material equipment plan from the one or more workflow
23 participants in the planning department;
24 forwarding information that enables one or more workflow participants in
25 an engineering department of the enterprise to develop[[ing]] an engineering specification
26 defining the item from the generated market specification;
27 receiving the engineering specification from the one or more workflow
28 participants in the engineering department;
29 receiving information establishing a purchase price to buy the item;
30 receiving information estimating a unit cost for producing the item in-
31 house from one or more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise; and
32 forwarding information that enables the one or more workflow
33 participants in the costing department to determine[[ing]] a unit opportunity cost from the
34 established purchase price to buy the item and the estimated in-house unit cost;
35 forwarding information that enables the one or more workflow
36 participants in the costing department to extend[[ing]] the unit opportunity cost by the quantity of
37 the item specified in the material requirement plan to determine a gross opportunity cost;
38 receiving information estimating a cost of acquiring a production capacity
39 to produce the item in-house from the one or more workflow participants in a costing department
40 of the enterprise;[[.]] and
41 receiving information determining to make the item in-house from the one
42 or more workflow participants in a costing department of the enterprise if a net present value of
43 the gross opportunity cost is more than the estimate cost of acquiring the production capacity,
44 otherwise receiving, at the at least one computer in the set of computers, information determining
45 to buy the item from at least one of the outside suppliers.

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